



**Ninety-Eighth Legislature - Second Session - 2004**  
**Committee Statement**  
**LB 1180**

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**Hearing Date:** February 4, 2004

**Committee On:** Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

**Introducer(s):** (Smith)

**Title:** Change conflict of interest provisions for political subdivisions

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**Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:**

Advanced to General File

X Advanced to General File with Amendments

Indefinitely Postponed

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**Vote Results:**

7	Yes	Senators Aguilar, Brown, Burling, Combs, McDonald, Schimek, Smith
0	No	
0	Present, not voting	
1	Absent	Senator Vrtiska

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**Proponents:**

Senator Adrian Smith  
Gary Krumland

**Representing:**

Introducer  
League of Nebraska Municipalities

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

Frank Daley

**Representing:**

Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure  
Commission

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

Officials of political subdivisions, which are currently not required to file statements of financial interest, who are considering making a decision which would cause a financial benefit or detriment to themselves, a member of their immediate family or a business with which they are associated will take the following action as soon as they are aware of the conflict:

1. prepare a written statement describing the matter requiring action and the nature of the potential conflict; and
  2. deliver a copy of the statement to the political subdivision which will be entered onto the public records of the subdivision.
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The official with the potential conflict may apply to the Accountability and Disclosure Commission for an advisory opinion relating to the propriety of the proposed action or decision.

**Explanation of amendments, if any:**

The committee amendment makes several changes to the bill.

It limits the new conflict reporting provisions to **elected** officials of political subdivisions.

To make it consistent with other language in the statute, the amendment provides that the reporting of potential conflicts apply to officials who “would be required to take any action or make any decision” in the discharge of their official duties.

The amendment strikes the word “advisory” when describing an opinion issued by the Accountability and Disclosure Commission. This change allows the Commission to offer opinions to the officials with more efficiency.

Finally, school board members will be required to follow the new provisions of LB 1180 when reporting potential conflicts. Currently, school board members are required to follow the same procedures as officials designated in section 49-1493.

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**Senator DiAnna R. Schimek, Chairperson**